



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/572,844	03/21/2006	Fabien M.J. Guillorit	US030361	3679
24737 7590 04/29/2008 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER				
FEATHERSTONE, MARK D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2623				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/29/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/572,844

Applicant(s)

GUILLORIT, FABIEN M.J.

Examiner

MARK D. FEATHERSTONE

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/21/2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/21/2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CIS-100)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/21/2006

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-13 recite "An electronic program guide comprising". An electronic program guide, by itself, without being embodied in a medium, is not considered statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ellis, US Patent # 6357043.

With regard to claim 1, Ellis discloses:

An electronic program guide comprising:

A channel list of available channels (Figure 20, items 20A, 20B, 20C; and column 18, lines 14-17); and

A program list of programs which is displayed concurrently with said channel list in response to selection of a selected channel from said available channels, said programs being exclusively associated with said selected channel (Figure 20 and column 18, lines 17-19).

With regard to claim 2, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 1, wherein said channel list is provided in response to accessing said electronic program guide, and both said channel list and said program list are provided in response to accessing said program list (column 18, lines 7-10; Ellis discloses a button in the EPG that the user can press to access the channel list)

With regard to claim 3, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 1, wherein said program list includes times associated with said programs and/or an identifier (Figure 20; Program start times are displayed), said identifier including a current time and or said selected channel (column 18, lines 19-20; Ellis describes a highlighted channel, which channel listings are displayed for)

With regard to claim 4, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 1, further comprising an information list which is displayed concurrently with said channel list and said program list, said information list including data associated with said selected program, said data including description, rating and/or repeat indication of said selected program (Figure 20, item 203 and column

18, lines 40-50; Ellis describes an "i" icon, which is shown concurrently with the program listing, and contains information about the program such as description)

With regard to claim 5, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 4, wherein said information list is displayed in response to selecting a selected program from said programs or in response to activation of an open switch while a cursor highlights said selected program (column 18, lines 40-50; Ellis describes, that after selecting a program from the list, the user can press the "i" button on the remote to get more information about the program)

With regard to claim 6, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 1, wherein said program list includes a reminder switch configured to set reminders for said programs, and/or a theme switch configured to open a theme menu, said theme menu including information categorized by themes for said available channels and/or said selected channel (column 4, lines 10-12; Ellis discloses the ability to set reminders)

With regard to claim 7, Ellis discloses

The electronic program guide of claim 1, further including an interface to navigate through said electronic program guide, said interface including at least one of: an open switch configured to open menus including said program list (column 13, lines 60-65; Ellis discloses depressing a "mode" switch to enter the browse mode of programming listings);

a close switch configure to close menus including said channel list and said program list; and (column 14, lines 53-55; Ellis discloses pressing the "Browse icon key" while in browse mode to exit the mode)

a help switch configured to open a help menu, said help menu including help information related to use of said guide and/or a controller of said program guide (column 12, lines 12-19; Ellis describes a help function)

With regard to claim 8, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 7, wherein said controller is a remote controller (column 12, lines 12-19; Ellis describes using a remote controller to invoke the help feature, which would enable the user to gain information on how to use the controller to navigate the program guide)

With regard to claim 9, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 7, wherein said controller includes a switch to access said electronic program guide, an up switch and a down switch; said up switch and said down switch being configured to respectively scroll a cursor up and down said channel list and/or said program list (column 29, lines 1-4; Ellis discloses the ability to move through the list by pressing the up/down keys on the remote control)

With regard to claim 10, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 9, wherein said up switch and said down switch are configured to scroll by pages (column 17, lines 39-44; Ellis describes scrolling by pages using the up/down switch on the remote control)

With regard to claim 11, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 9, wherein said up switch and said down switch are configured to respectively move said cursor to a top or a bottom of said channel list and/or said program list and thereafter scroll by pages (column 17, lines 39-44; Ellis describes moving the cursor to the bottom of the screen and then invoking the up/down keys to scroll by pages)

With regard to claim 12, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 9, wherein said up switch and said down switch are respectively configured to singularly move said cursor up and down entries of said channel list and/or said program list (column 29, lines 1-4; Ellis discloses the ability to move through the list by pressing the up/down keys on the remote control to arrive at a desired channel)

With regard to claim 13, Ellis discloses:

The electronic program guide of claim 7, wherein said controller includes a right switch and a left switch configured to move said cursor between said channel list and said program list (column 11, lines Ellis describes the use of right/left arrow keys, that allow the user to browse through a particular channel's programs; in column 18, lines 19-20, Ellis describes a mode wherein the listings are associated with a particular channel. The user inherently could scroll through the listings in the same way by pressing the down arrow key to move from the channel list to the program list, and using the left/right arrow keys to navigate through the programs/times associated with the selected channel)

Claim 14 is a device to receive the EPG of claim 1. Ellis discloses such a receiver (Fig. 1, item 12 and column 8, lines 64-66)

With regard to claim 15, Ellis discloses:

A controller configured to control an on-screen display of an electronic program guide (Figures 3 & 4 and column 10, lines 61-64), and controller comprising an access switch to access said electronic program guide (column 13, lines 60-65; Ellis discloses a "mode" button to invoke the program guide); and navigation switches to navigate through said electronic program guide (column 14, lines 14-20; Ellis describes using the up/down keys to navigate throughout the program guide); said electronic program guide comprising: a channel list of available channels (Figure 20, items 20A, 20B, 20C; and column 18, lines 14-17); and a program list of programs which is displayed concurrently with said channel list in response to selection of a selected channel from said available channels, said programs being exclusively associated with said selected channel (Figure 20 and column 18, lines 17-19).

With regard to claim 16, Ellis discloses:

The controller of claim 14, wherein said channel list is provided in response to a first activation of said access switch (column 13, lines 60-65; Ellis describes a "mode" button to invoke the program guide, which contains a channel list), and both said channel list and said program list are provided in response to a second activation of said access switch, or in response to activation of a program switch of said controller (column 18, lines 7-10; Ellis describes a triangular icon that invokes the menu that displays programs associated with a particular channel, see also Fig. 20)

Art Unit: 2623

Claim 17 is the processor configured to invoke the program guide of claim 1 (column 5, lines 38-41; Ellis discloses a data processor that drives his system).

Claim 18 is rejected as the method of system claim 1, as applied.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK D. FEATHERSTONE whose telephone number is (571)270-3750. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F US Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig, can be reached on (571) 272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

E-Signed

/Mark Featherstone/ - Art Unit 2623

/Andrew Y Koenig/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2623